

## **World Language Teachers-Please take immediate action.**

**Seal of Biliteracy Colorado-hearing in the House Education Committee on Monday, Feb.27 at 1:30 pm in room 112.**

You can also get your Colorado House member ready to explore this and think about supporting this when (if) it passes House Ed. Committee by writing a letter. Here is my letter to my rep. Also here is some information for you about the Seal and where to find your representative's email. Here is my letter that you can use as a guide for yours. Pass it on to other WL and English and ELL teachers. (or not your school email.) So good for our language students.

Dear Representative Ginal,

My name is Toni Theisen and I am a world language teacher in Loveland, but I live in your district in Fort Collins. I am asking you to support and vote YES on SB17-123 sponsored by Senator Priola and Senator Zenzinger and Representative James Wilson and Representative Millie Hamner -The Seal of Biliteracy.

This bill-Senate Bill 123 has passed the Senate Ed. Committee and the full Senate. It is scheduled for the House Ed. Committee Feb. 27. Hope it passes and then goes to the full House. So I am asking for your support and to encourage others.

The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by a school, school district, charter school, etc. or county office of education in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation (English and one other language). A Seal of Biliteracy is granted to all students who meet the criteria for the award. For each level, criteria are set for students whose first language is English who are learning a second language and for English Learners who are developing academic proficiency in their home language while mastering English.

The Seal of Biliteracy takes the form of a seal that appears on the transcript or diploma of the graduating senior and is a statement of accomplishment for future employers and for college admissions. The Seal of Biliteracy can be available to all students-from public schools to charters to homeschool students.

The purpose of the Seal of Biliteracy is an award made by a state department of education or local district to recognize a student who has attained proficiency in English and one or more other world languages by high school graduation. The recognition of attaining biliteracy becomes part of the high school transcript and diploma for these students. The Seal serves to certify attainment of biliteracy for students, employers, and universities. It is a statement of accomplishment that helps to signal evidence of a student's readiness for career and college, and for engagement as a global citizen.

As you can see from the bill, there are a series of standards that students must reach to have this seal. These standards are national and all the states use these high standards to obtain this recognition. They are standards aligned to language proficiency from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), The National Council of State Supervisors for Languages (NCSSFL), and National Association for Bilingual Educators (NABE) and Teaching English to Students of Other Languages (TESOL). All of these organizations have state organizations and connections. Also this Seal is not required, but is a choice of the district to award it.

We could become the 23rd state to have this Seal of Biliteracy for our students. This Seal offers another form of choice for our students and another way to access the workforce in a global economy.

In Colorado, Denver Public Schools, Adams County-Commerce City and Eagle County Schools have been piloting this seal. Last year DPS awarded 147 seals in many languages.

Currently universities around the country are also awards credits-similar to AP and IB credits, UNC in Greeley is working on this right now and is thinking of awards 2 years of credit.

Here is a link to an article about the increase need for those who are literate in more than one language in the Colorado economy: Language Diversity in the Workforce: [http://www.renewoureconomy.org/.../NAE-CO-Biliteracy-Brief\\_FI...](http://www.renewoureconomy.org/.../NAE-CO-Biliteracy-Brief_FI...)

Here is more information about the Seal of Biliteracy: <http://sealofbiliteracy.org/>

This is a very important bill of choice for our students in Colorado.

Thank you for your consideration.

Toni Theisen

ACTFL National President 2013

ACTFL National World Language Teacher of the Year 2009

World Language Coordinator-Thompson School District

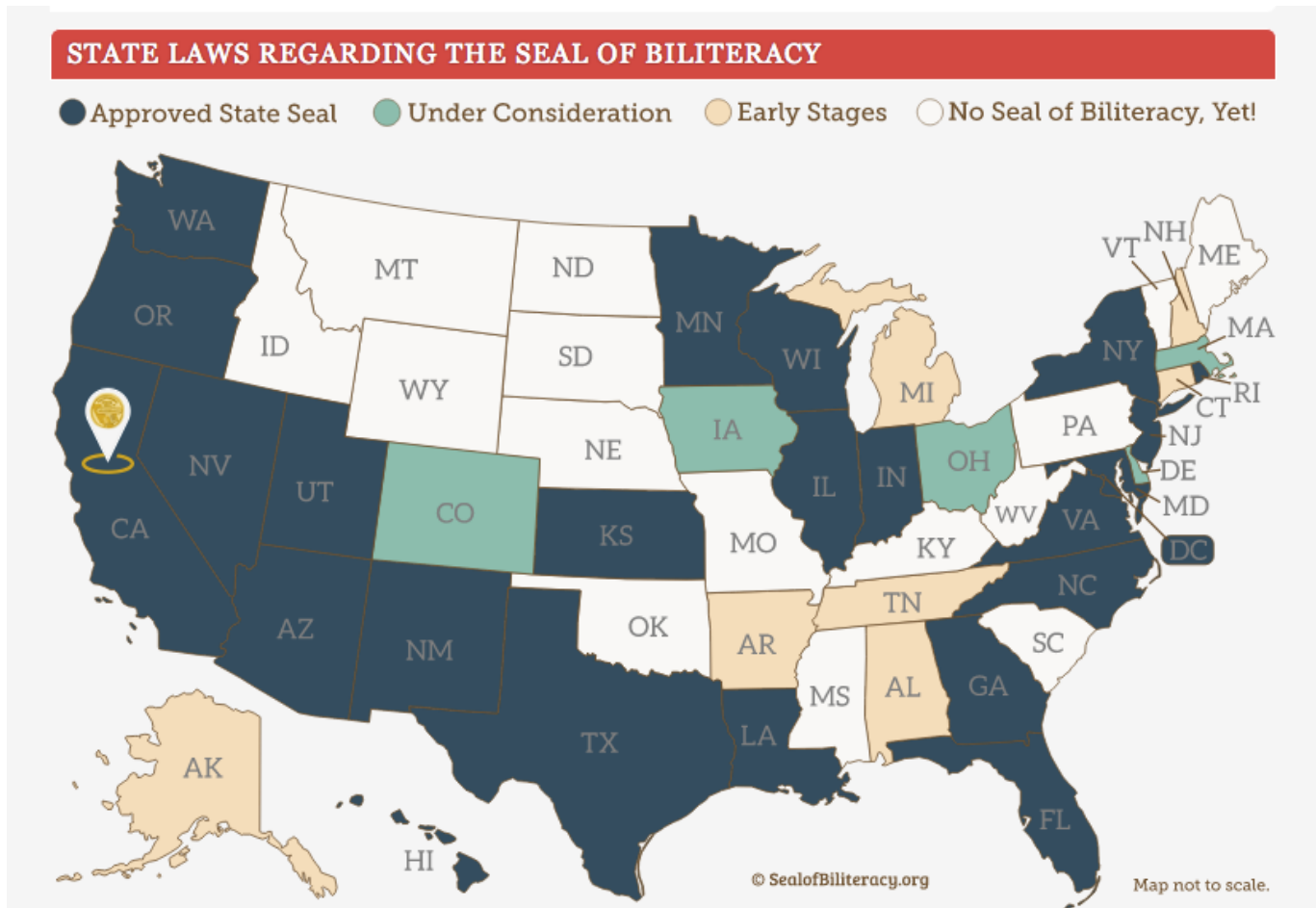
Fort Collins, CO 80525

**Here is my House Representative-Joann Ginal: [joann.ginal.house@state.co.us](mailto:joann.ginal.house@state.co.us)**

All emails follow the same format.

How to find your Representative: <http://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator> on the map type in your **zip code**.

Here is more information about the Seal of Biliteracy: <http://sealofbiliteracy.org/>



## What is the Seal?

The Seal of Biliteracy is an award made by a state department of education or local district to recognize a student who has attained proficiency in English and one or more other world languages by high school graduation. The recognition of attaining biliteracy becomes part of the high school transcript and diploma for these students. The Seal serves to certify attainment of biliteracy for students, employers, and universities. It is a statement of accomplishment that helps to signal evidence of a student's readiness for career and college, and for engagement as in the interconnected world and global economy.

For World Language students requirements include an Intermediate-mid level of language-(a 3 on an AP test, a 4 on a IB test). Proficiency must be recognized on a nationally recognized test such as AAPPL or Stamp-Avant Assessment. There are other possibilities for students who have a language that does not have a national test.

More details about the requirements for students:

[https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/SealofBiliteracyGuidelines\\_0.pdf](https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/SealofBiliteracyGuidelines_0.pdf)

**So please contact your State Representative. The bill, SB-123, passed the Senate Education Committee and the full Senate. The House Education Committee hears the bill on Monday, Feb. 27. So do this immediately-even if you do a simple email on your phone today.**